

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING AGENDA

Meeting Date: Friday, March 16, 2012 **Time:** 10:00 am - Noon
Place: Veteran's Memorial Hall
801 Grand Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Please RSVP to Chair (235-5779) if you are unable to attend this meeting.

9: 45am REFRESHMENTS

10::00 am Call for a Quorum

Call to Order

- Flag Salute
- Roll List **SPECIAL: Record comments about priority senior issues on list**
- Approval of February Minutes [March Minute Taker: Alice York]
- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comment [2 minute limit]
- Introductions

Unfinished Business:

- Guidelines for Advocacy: New handout for binder.

New Business:

- Advocacy: Long Term Care Ombudsman: Support bill changes (Karen Jones) (see attachment)
- Advocacy: Ride Share: Expanding Transportation Options (Fred Monroe) (see attachment)
- New COA rack card

Presentation: Karen Jones, Long Term Care Ombudsman, SLO County, and Angela Viles, Elder & Dependent Adult Victim Advocate, will speak about the "Role of Family in Senior Abuse and Fraud Cases."

Special Reports:

- Zarycka: Senior Fitness
- Schlitz: CSL Report
- Pounders: House Tour report
- Chair Report

Announcements and Updates:

Adjournment:

Next Meeting, April 20, 2012 Minute Taker: Diane Maiorano

SLO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

Veterans Memorial Hall

801 Grand Avenue

San Luis Obispo

Minutes for March 16, 2012

Members Present: Marilyn Hamilton, Anita Shower, Alice York, Maryanne Zarycka, , Kathleen Bellefontaine, Jo Dennison, Diane Maiorano, Margaret Ensminger, Carol Schmidt , Julie Macedo, Dorothy Schlitz, Mike Suddarth, Angela Viles, Rosa Fernandez

Absent: Judy Mishoulam, Judy Salamacha, Elias Nimeh

Guests: Cherie Aispuro (Dist 2), Brian Petersen (Senior Living Consultants), Judith Bernstein, Fred Munroe (SLO Transit), Jerry Mihaic (ILRC) Karen Jones (LTC OMB), Marie & Paul Wilson, Myra Lathrop.

9:45am: Celebration for member, Angela Viles, who is expecting a baby girl in April.

Quorum established.

Call to Order: by Chair Bellefontaine at 10:10 a.m. Flag Salute. Circulation of special planning roll lists.

Minutes from February, 2012 meeting: accepted

Agenda: No changes

Public Comments: None

Introductions were made by all members and guests.

Marie Pounders announced the passage of 2 mobile home ordinance bills in Santa Barbara County and reported that some members of the Commission toured low cost senior housing, Feb 25. Full report to be given next month.

A card of appreciation was presented to Marie Pounders for all of her efforts in advocating successfully over the past several years for the mobile home park ordinances in SLO and Santa Barbara Counties. Marie's recent organization of the COA house tour is also recognized.

Unfinished Business: Guidelines for Advocacy handout for binder was distributed.

New Business:

Advocacy: Long Term Care Ombudsman, Karen Jones, of Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of SLO County, discussed the two bills before the legislature. SB 345 (Wolk) is very important in preserving the advocacy abilities and the independence of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman office. AB 40 (Yamada) is a bill that changes mandated elder and dependent adult abuse reporting. The bill requires mandated reporters to report physical abuse that occurs in a long term care facility to the Ombudsman AND law enforcement. Current law allows the reporter to report to Ombudsman OR law enforcement. Federal laws have created a conflict with state law regarding Ombudsman as abuse investigators. AB 40 will correct some of those conflicts. After COA discussion, Mike Suddarth moved, Anita Shower 2nd, that the COA send 2 letters of advocacy, one for SB 345 and one for AB 40 to the State Legislature. Passed unanimously.

Advocacy: Fred Monroe, of SLO Transit, discussed the need for the continuation of a 3 year old program to expand transportation options to seniors who are struggling with isolation but have never used public transportation and need training and support to regain their independence by utilizing CALTRANS transportation. Marilyn Hamilton moved, seconded by Diane Maiorano, that COA send a letter of support for the grant to John Webster, transit manager. Passed unanimously.

COA Rack Card update: Discussion and agreement to update COA rack cards with the photo of the COA taken by Dennis Eamon Young, Nov 2011. Anita Shower volunteered to cover the cost of the printing. Executive Planning Committee will review the content for possible revision as well.

Presentation: Karen Jones of Long Term Care Ombudsman Services of SLO County advocates for people who reside in long term care facilities. In San Luis Obispo County, family members are the primary abuser of facility residents and most of the abuse is financial. Often family dysfunction is the basis for the abuse, including anger at the victim/senior or attempts to isolate the senior from siblings or other family members. There are complex issues that result in this situation, including untreated mental illness, addiction/alcoholism and child abuse. Sometimes visitor restrictions may be applied, but these limitations are rare and only available if the facility resident requests the limits or a judge authorizes a restraining order. Creative mediation is available.

Angela Viles is an Elder and Adult victim advocate in the SLO County District Attorney's Office. She explained that the District Attorney's office can request protective measures but only when a crime has been committed. Angela distributed a list of **Top 10 Safety Tips** to the Commissioners and described the incidents that have occurred that contributed to these suggestions.

In answer to questions about who to trust when trying to hire a caregiver, Angela explained that there is no easy way to know if companies have done background checks because there are no laws or regulations requiring them to do so. She recommends using a professional agency that does background checks. An individual may run a back ground check at the county court house, but it is limited to SLO County residents.

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Special Reports: Marie Pounders and Dorothy Schlitz had to leave early. Their respective Reports were postponed.

*Maryanne Zarycka gave an update on her training and credentials in various senior fitness programs that she is now involved with and the importance for seniors of keep fit and flexible and the need to work on balance. She offers zumba classes among others.

*Chair reported that she spoke with Carol Hatley, of SLO Housing Authority, regarding a problem brought to us by a senior concerned with smoking at the Anderson Hotel. Ms. Hatley explained the measures that HASLO and Public Health are implementing to solve this problem. The Chair also learned that since City codes for smoking are followed at the Anderson, the complaint should be filed with the City Council or Health Department. Ms. Eastman has been informed of these alternatives. There was some discussion as to whether the Commission should have become involved at all. Many members felt that since it dealt with a senior issue and was brought to our attention, that looking into the situation was appropriate.

Chair announced that it's time to submit applications to the Area Agency on Aging for Senior Volunteer Awards.

Updated rosters were handed out.

Diane moved, seconded by Marilyn, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 am.

Submitted by Alice York and edited by Kathleen Bellefontaine